# S.B. 214 UTAH BROADBAND CENTER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Senator Chris Wilson

District 25

#### PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

- The State of Utah is expected to receive as much as \$400 million in federal funding, exclusively for broadband
- Funds will be provided by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which Congress passed last fall
- The Utah Broadband Center will be responsible for the distribution of these funds
- S.B. 214 created the Utah Broadband Advisory Commission to work in tandem with the Utah Broadband Center



## DETAILS ABOUT THE UTAH BROADBAND CENTER

- Established prior to the 2022 legislative session, and recently amended in 2021 and 2022 code
- S.B. 214 (2022) outlined requirements:
  - Develop the Statewide Digital Connectivity (Strategic) Plan
  - Administer the Broadband Access Grant Program via the Strategic Plan
  - Ensure efficiency with expenditure of funds and avoid duplication of efforts
  - Maximize the leverage of federal funding
  - Account for benefits and costs to the state of current broadband infrastructure
  - Work with the Utah Broadband Center Advisory Commission, and give them a yearly report



- Also referred to as the Statewide Digital Connectivity Plan
- Required by the Federal Government for distribution of broadband funding
- Will include strategies to
  - Implement broadband connectivity statewide
  - Promote digital equity
  - Apply for federal infrastructure (and additional) funds
- The Utah Broadband Commission and Utah Broadband Center Advisory Commission will work together on the plan
  - Ensures that federal funds are spent in a way that considers statewide interest, not specific groups or communities

## DETAILS ABOUT THE UTAH BROADBAND CENTER ADVISORY COMMISSION



#### S.B. 214 Outlined Requirements:

- Make recommendations to the Utah Broadband
   Center, with respect to:
  - The development of a Statewide Digital Connectivity (Strategic) Plan
  - The application for and use of broadband funds
- Solicit input from stakeholders
- Work with private and public entities who may help with implementation of the strategic plan
- Review strategic plan drafts and recommend changes
- Automatically repeals after 5 years

## BREAKDOWN OF UTAH BROADBAND CENTER ADVISORY COMMISSION MEMBERS

- 9 members in total:
  - 2 members of the Utah State Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate
  - 2 Members of the Utah State House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker of the House
  - Executive director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget or their designee
  - 4 Individuals who currently work in the public sector, appointed by the Governor
    - Should have professional experience in broadband/broadband infrastructure, applying for federal grants, or financing infrastructure
- One member of the Senate and one member of the House will be designated as co-chairs

### QUESTIONS?

